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# ARKANSAS LIBRARIES



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Vol. 6, Series II

July, 1949

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ARKANSAS LIBRARY COMMISSION

In Co-operation With

ARKANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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# Arkansas Libraries

Vol. 6, Series II

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## ARKANSAS LIBRARIES

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### LIBRARY COURSES

(The following editorial appeared in the Arkansas Gazette on Thursday, June 16, 1949.)

Six state-supported colleges, the University of Arkansas and two church colleges are offering courses in library science this summer for teachers and librarians in public schools. The purpose is to enable the schools to meet by 1952-53 the requirements set up by the State Department of Education.

As helpful as these courses will be, they will not make professional librarians. Much more specialized training would be needed for that. Professional librarians are scarce not only in Arkansas but in every other state. Employment opportunities have greatly increased in recent years. Besides public and school libraries there are libraries maintained by various agencies. The Veterans Administration Hospital at North Little Rock, for example, has a medical library under the supervision of a trained librarian. A professional librarian was in charge of the U. S. Department of Agriculture regional library that was formerly maintained

in Little Rock. In some parts of the country large corporations have industrial libraries.

The national shortage has worked against Arkansas' increasing its professional library group. The county libraries need more professional people. Some counties in order to meet this and other situations have organized their library programs into a regional system. The University of Arkansas, in co-operation with the Arkansas Library Commission, has in past summers offered workshop courses for the benefit of untrained personnel in county libraries.

Although the college courses that will be given this summer are designed primarily for teachers and public school librarians, other persons engaged in library work, who have not had opportunity to get academic training in library science, could benefit by attending. Library Science is a broad field, and does not consist of just looking after a collection of books. These courses should stimulate more general interest in the technical work of running a library.

### ARKANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION REGIONAL MEETING AT EL DORADO

The District Library Meeting opened at the Garrett Hotel in El Dorado, at 10 a. m., Thursday, May 9. Miss Irene Mason, state librarian, presided. She welcomed the group to the forum, bringing greetings from the State Library Board and the Commission Staff. She spoke briefly of the Federal Aid Bill which would give aid to libraries. This is Senate Bill 130 and House Bill 874, and if it passes Arkansas will be in position to receive \$140,000 for libraries.

Mrs. Morene Smith, librarian, El Dorado High School, spoke on the

progress of the library profession in Arkansas. She said that in the 1920's the state meeting had fewer delegates than this meeting. She stressed the fact that "You never graduate from your library".

Dean Whiteside, Supervisor of Rural Education in Arkansas, enumerated the policies, regulations, and criteria for library work in accredited schools in Arkansas. "A few years ago", Mr. Whiteside said, "the school people in the state began working on the problem of Physical Education. A standard was set up, but

there were few trained persons. Now, due to the efforts of the school people, there are plenty of Physical Education majors in the state".

"Arkansas is now ten to fifteen years behind her neighboring states in library science. Three years ago the Arkansas State Department of Education started a program raising the standards for library work in accredited schools. Schools are expected to meet this standard by the 1952-53 term. Before this criteria was set up, it was presented to eleven Schoolmaster's Clubs, and changes were made and passed on by the Arkansas State Board of Education. The requirements are:

For a high school with an enrollment of 500 pupils or more—a full-time librarian.

In a high school with an enrollment of 200-499 pupils—librarian may be full-time librarian, study-hall librarian or teacher-librarian. If study-hall or teacher-librarian, at least half her time must be devoted to professional service in the library.

In high schools with an enrollment of less than 200 pupils at least two periods a day of the teacher-librarian's time must be devoted to professional library service.

In high schools with an enrollment of 500 or more pupils, the librarian should have completed a minimum of 24 semester hours of library science.

In high schools with an enrollment of 200-499 pupils, the librarian should have completed a minimum of 16 semester hours of library science.

In high schools with an enrollment of less than 200 pupils the librarian should have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours of library science."

In discussing the high school budget, Mr. Whiteside said that part of the annual high school budget which is devoted to library expenditures varies according to the size of the school; the smaller the school, the greater should be the expenditure per pupil. An amount of money, adequate to provide for replacements and expansion, should be expended annually by the high school for purchase of library books, periodicals, newspapers, pamphlets, vertical file materials, and supplies.

The school budget must be planned as follows in regard to the library:

500-999 pupils—75c per pupil.

200-499 pupils—\$1.00 per pupil.

Enrollment less than 200—not less than \$2.00 per pupil.

Miss Lucille Slater, librarian, Union County Librarian, presided at the luncheon, and W. A. Halliburton was toastmaster. Miss Georgia Watson, trustee of the El Dorado Public Library, made an address on "Any Way You Slice It." Piano selections were played by Miss Margaret Berry of Smackover.

In the afternoon meeting, Mrs. I. C. Oxner, public library trustee of McGehee, spoke on "Responsibilities of a Library Trustee". Mrs. C. C. Wilking, librarian, El Dorado Public Library, presided. Tea was served at 4 o'clock at the El Dorado Public Library.

## ARKANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION REGIONAL MEETING AT HARRISON

Librarians from central and north Arkansas met at the North Arkansas Regional Library in Harrison, Tuesday, April 26, with Mrs. Hazel Deal, regional librarian, hostess for the meeting.

Miss Irene Mason, Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Library Commission, presided at the meeting. She brought greetings from the State Library Board and the Commission staff.

Miss Mason introduced Mr. Roy W. Milum, charter member of the North Arkansas Regional Library Board. He enumerated the duties of a board member. These included providing for the housing of the library, the finances and the books. He reviewed the work that the North Arkansas Regional Library Board did when this library was being organized. The board's first duty, said Mr. Milum, is to "sell" the library to county officials and the people in the community. After the library is established, he said, the board acts in a supervisory capacity, leaving the actual direction of the library to the librarian.

Mr. Coy Logan, school supervisor, Carroll County, another member of the board, spoke on the interrelation of libraries and schools. He said that the library program and the

school program must be inter-related, for the problems of one are the problems of the other.

The meeting adjourned at noon for a luncheon at the Hotel Seville. Mrs. Frank Pettit, representing the mayor, gave the welcome; Miss Lucile Lucas, librarian of the Ozarks Regional Library, Clarksville, gave the response for the visiting librarians. Mrs. Charles Soule, Harrison, sang two solos, accompanied by Mrs. Frank Pettit.

The afternoon session opened with the showing of a film illustrating the service of the Pulaski County bookmobile.

Miss Mason asked the librarians to write to their senators and representatives urging them to support the Library Demonstration Bill.

Mr. J. A. Trice, of the Arkansas State Department of Education, outlined the regulations and criteria set up for school libraries by the Department of Education, librarians and school officials. He stated that for accreditation in 1951, it will be compulsory that school libraries measure up to these standards.

Librarians and trustees were free to ask questions during the general discussion which followed each speech. The meeting was adjourned by Miss Mason.

## LIBRARY TRUSTEES

By Roy W. Milum<sup>1</sup>

When Miss Mason asked me to talk to you on the subject of "Library Trustees", in my mind I began to think where I could get material for such a speech. I came across a story about a prominent member of the D. A. R. who often helped her colored cook compose speeches for her church organizational meetings. It happened that on one occasion the lady of the house was out of town when the cook needed a very stirring address. Upon the lady's return, she asked her cook how she made out. The cook replied, "Oh, I found one of your speeches and substituted 'God' for 'D.A.R.' and it went fine."

I wasn't fortunate enough to find a model speech that I could work from, so I am relying largely on material from a manual published by the Indiana Library Trustees Association entitled, "Indiana Library Trustees Own Manual", prepared by trustees for trustees, together with a few observations of my own.

It behooves us as library trustees to give our libraries the proper interpretation and the right kind of publicity. In the first place let us be sure that board members know that they are **trustees**. My home-town library is a part of the Southeast Arkansas Regional Library, a tri-county system that is still in its two-year demonstration period. Library work, library terms and library duties are comparatively new to our board members. At a recent meeting of our city board, I was reading a communication which stressed the part that trustees play in library service. One of the members present asked, "What is a trustee?" I appreciated that question, for this board member was sincere in asking it—and it gave me an opportunity to

pass the information on to all those present. I replied, "**You** are a **trustee** by reason of your appointment to the City Library Board."

Then I went on to explain what qualities are desirable and worthy of consideration in the appointment of board members. Special abilities of individual members of the board are, of course, useful. A lawyer, teacher, architect, contractor, clergyman, newspaperman, or a politician, may render especially valuable service, but notwithstanding the merits of literary appreciation and special ability, the ideal trustee is a good businessman or woman, interested in education, and with few prejudices, a person of good judgment, sound character, common sense, and public spirit.

The fact that you have been appointed a library trustee is a compliment from your community. You may have been appointed because of your interest in past civic endeavors and because you have done well in other fields. Or, you may have been appointed because of your foresight and energetic approach to everyday problems.

It has been observed that library boards are less subject to political pressure than any other group. Likewise, the tenure of office of librarians is far longer than any other public officials. That speaks well for the stability of the library profession.

When I spoke of trusteeship as a community honor, I meant an **active trusteeship**. You must be an active board member in order to consider it honorary. There was a time when the average age of library board members was far past the "prime of

<sup>1</sup> Presented during the Arkansas Library Association Regional Meeting at Harrison, April 26.



life". When Miss Helen Ridgeway, consultant for the American Library Association, visited the meeting of the Arkansas Library Association in Little Rock last October, she said that she was very pleased to find the average age of trustees in Arkansas young as compared with some other sections.

There was a time when the commandment, "Honor thy father and thy mother" was accepted as just that. Nowadays our ministers teach us that in order to be honored parents we must earn that acclaim by worthy example.

So it is with a library trusteeship. In order for it to be an honor, it must be earned by actual participation in the government of your particular library.

A trustee is responsible for library objectives and policies and for obtaining the funds sufficient to meet the library needs. Our immediate responsibility is to help the library; not, as many trustees appear to believe, to save the taxpayers' money primarily.

All of you are aware of the advance in the cost of books along with the other increases in the "high cost of living". Thinking along that line, I am reminded of the story of a librarian who kept saving her book fund money because prices had gone up beyond her approval. Months went by with only meager additions to the book collection. When finally questioned on the subject, the librarian said, "Well, I am waiting for the book prices to go down so I can get my dollars' worth." Now that was false economy, for books are the stock and trade of the library, and a steady flow of books is essential to a successful library system.

When we assume the responsibility of a trustee, we say, in effect, "I am interested in my library to the extent that I am willing to serve without compensation for the period of

my appointment; to attend board meetings **regularly**, to accept an office or membership on a committee if called upon to do so, and to fill that office creditably and efficiently, without expecting special privileges. My good judgment and common sense, as well as any special ability which I may possess, will be at the service of my library. I shall endeavor to be informed on library trends, on the problems of neighboring libraries as well as my own, and to grow as I help my institution to grow."

Trustees have these distinct responsibilities:

1. **To know the law** under which your Library Commission was established. Copies of Act 139 of the 1935 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, the legislation which established the Arkansas Library Commission, may be obtained from the office of the Commission. If you do not have a copy of this Act in your files, I urge you to obtain one and study it. It might be well to review Act No. 139 at one of your regular board meetings.

2. **To determine the policy of the library.** Policy is always a matter of choice, and these choices make our library what it is or what it shall become. They must choose whether to seek out new readers or better serve those they already have; whether to include only work with books or to go beyond them to a broader program of lectures, study clubs, and other educational services; whether to include services such as films, slides, recordings, music, etc. **These things the board must decide.** Such decisions and expansion bring us to our next point of responsibility.

3. **To secure adequate funds** for the operation of the library system. The best basis for estimating the amount of money required is the per capita basis. The American Library Association recommends a minimum of \$1.50 per capita for library service

and \$3.00 per capita for **superior** service. These figures are a star for us to hope for, but it is an idea of what we may work toward.

**4. To support legislation** which will bring about the greatest good to the greatest number of libraries. You have already demonstrated well on that point. The successful passage of the County Library Tax Amendment in 1946 was very important. It allowed individual counties to vote a tax for library service if they so desired. Last November, you will remember that 28 counties voted on such a tax, and the election returns showed that the Library Tax passed by large majorities in each of the 28 counties. That record is probably an all-time precedent for legislation of this type. It proved that Arkansas wants library service and is willing to pay for it. The Commission is grateful to all those who took part in these campaigns, for it was your work, your planning, your publicity, and your votes that made the favorable decision.

**5. To employ a well trained librarian** and one in whom they have full confidence. Trustees should consider it unethical to employ in the library in any capacity anyone even distantly related to them. Breach of this rule will sooner or later bring embarrassment to the board and something more than embarrassment to the librarian. Trustees seeking a librarian should secure advice from the Arkansas Library Commission, the American Library Association, recognized library schools or the heads of larger libraries.

**6. To assign the execution of details to the librarian** and his staff. Especially is this true of book selection. The librarian is trained to study the community and its needs. He knows its interests. He is trained in the selection of books. The Board may review the book lists if it wishes, and should decide on policy, but in

by far the majority of libraries the selection of books is left, properly, to trained librarians, and when the selections have been made the library board should stand back of them.

**7. To promote service and public relations.** This requires keeping a watchful eye on results in order to determine whether the library is fulfilling its mission. Recently, a friend of mine asked me if I knew any games that she might use at a church circle meeting to carry out the theme of St. Patrick's day, since the meeting happened to fall on March 17th. I answered quite truthfully that I did not, but I suggested that she inquire at the library to see if they had a book on games for parties. She found an excellent book which contained suggestions for parties the year-round. The incident in itself seems very small—but perhaps 20 or 30 people who attended that meeting were directly benefited because my friend used the library.

Last week, our local Garden Club held its spring flower show. I was quite interested in the section which contained arrangements suggesting the title of a book. I thought you might be interested in knowing some of the books which were featured in this exhibit: "Fire", by George R. Stewart; "Green Grass of Wyoming", by Mary O'Hara; "The Song in the Green Thorn Tree", by James Blake; Margaret Mitchell's "Gone With the Wind"; "Hound Dog Man", by Fred Gipson; "Shoelace Robin", by William Hall. Such a display is a good way to promote interest in library service.

I wish each of you could tell of instances of community service. An exchange of such ideas would be very interesting, I am sure. Likewise, it would be very valuable.

A plantation owner passing an old colored man who spent part of every day fishing, stopped and said, "Here, uncle, let me give you some money



to buy fish instead of spending all your time holding that pole." The old man grinned and shook his head. "Mistah Jim, they's some things money can buy and some things it can't. One thing it can't buy is de bobble of de co'k and de twittah o' de pole." Good public relations are like

the "bobble of de co'k and de twittah o' de pole"—money can't buy them. It is up to us as trustees to chart the course of our libraries to the very best interests of our fellow citizens.

Let us ask ourselves the question: "Am I a good trustee?"

## ARKANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION REGIONAL MEETING AT JONESBORO

Mr. Wayne Dent, a member of the library board, acted as chairman for the morning meeting of the Regional Conference held at the First Methodist Church in Jonesboro, May 5, 1949.

The program was opened with musical numbers by members of the Junior High School Band. Mr. Whiteside, Supervisor of Rural Education in Arkansas, spoke on standards and criteria which the Arkansas State Department of Education is establishing for school libraries. He recommended that schools take the following steps to improve their libraries:

- (1) Purchase the standard catalogs published by H. W. Wilson & Company.
- (2) Select a trained librarian; or, if impossible, train one.
- (3) Select suitable quarters.
- (4) Weed book collections.
- (5) Sort, organize and arrange remaining material in useful manner.
- (6) Secure the cooperation of teachers and students in selecting books.

Mr. Whiteside urged that material on hand be used to the best advantage, and suggested that other sources should be used to supplement and enrich library service.

In order that libraries may keep their place as the center of our edu-

cational system, he suggested that library workers:

- (1) Put into effect a long-range program of acquiring and organizing books and related materials.
- (2) Act as an agency for curriculum development.
- (3) Make library collections useful for research and self-education.
- (4) Help develop favorable reading habits.
- (5) Stimulate literary appreciation.
- (6) Encourage use of library for leisure time.
- (7) Furnish social experiences for student assistants by forming library clubs.

During a luncheon the group was entertained with songs and skits by the members of the Senior High School Spanish class.

Miss Helen Heineman presided over the afternoon meeting which was opened with the singing of spirituals by the Booker T. Washington Glee Club. Mr. R. H. Moore, Jonesboro resident and member of the Arkansas Library Commission, talked on "The Responsibility of a Library Board Member". He gave a resume of the history of the Arkansas Library Commission, and explained some of the work that has been accomplished in the twelve years since its creation. Mr. Moore stressed the fact that the development and success of the state program was due in a large part to the fine work of local

librarians and board members throughout the state. He pointed out that last November, counties for the first time had an opportunity to vote a tax to support their libraries. Mr. Moore said, "When 28 counties impose upon themselves another tax by passing this legislation so overwhelmingly, it is most encouraging."

In discussing problems which are now facing trustees, Mr. Moore explained state aid which is now available for service to Negroes, and he urged all librarians to give this phase of the work serious consideration. He stated that consolidated schools will also bring about changes which affect library service. More and better books will be available to the pupils through their school libraries. The children will carry this news

along with the new books and materials into their homes, and this will create an interest in and a desire for reading among the adults. Mr. Moore closed his talk by appealing to the library trustees and board members to support their libraries and publicize the good work that is being done.

Judge Foster Clarke addressed the group on **A Citizen Looks at His Library**. (Full text of Judge Clarke's address appears in this issue of ARKANSAS LIBRARIES.—Ed.)

The conference was attended by librarians and trustees from Little Rock, Newport, Hardy, Walnut Ridge, West Ridge, Blytheville, Osceola, Trumann, Caraway, Bay, Monette, Manila, Luxora, Rector and State College, Jonesboro.

## A CITIZEN LOOKS AT HIS LIBRARY

By Judge Foster Clarke<sup>1</sup>

With all my heart I believe in the public library, and in the work you are doing as librarians.

The boy, Abraham Lincoln, standing in the wilderness, talking to his best friend, said: "The things I want are in books, and my best friend is the one who will get a good book for me", or words to that effect. I am proud to count among my best friends, good people like you, who work as librarians, bringing good books to me, and to all the people of Arkansas.

A library should be a friendly place where we may find help in living.

As I travel about over the country, I see the real progress that is being made in bringing library service to Arkansas.

A library is not just a collection of books. The largest collection of books in the world does not become a library until we have a trained librarian creating a service, making the books available to the people.

When I was in the Army, I found that people from everywhere made fun of Arkansas, and it hurt me. If we can broaden our fine library system, through bookmobiles and branches, until it reaches and serves all our people, then we will have real progress. No one can make fun of that.

We need libraries to help our young people. The Bible says that the child Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man. We need to help every child in Arkansas grow like that. Good libraries will

<sup>1</sup> Presented during the Arkansas Library Association Regional Meeting at Jonesboro, May 5.

help us to help our children grow as God intended them to grow.

We need to make the library a center for adult education. We need to have more meetings in which people get together and talk things over. In an age of specialization, we need to understand each other's viewpoints. I hope that the new libraries will make provision for meeting rooms, and for adult education activities, and will provide the reference material needed to secure the facts to make their discussions worth while.

We must always remember that the library is the keeper of liberty. Too few of our people understand the responsibilities of citizenship in a society of free citizens. Too often, freedom not understood by those who enjoy it, is forever lost. In our own day, we have seen hateful leaders reach out to destroy the liberty of the peoples of the world. Their first step has always been the burning of the books. The Bible says, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." The public library

is one of the best places to learn the truth and thus stay free.

The public library is the ally of everything good in the community—the churches, the civic clubs—everything that is working to make the community better.

We should all bend our efforts toward making the library a true center of real culture in each community.

A library is a power house. Undreamed-of power lies sleeping in its books, ready to be harnessed for more effective living. There is power in a book, power that dwarfs the atom bomb, power that will take hold of a life and change it.

All doors are open to the person who has a good book. One can reach across the barriers of time and space and circumstances, and can associate with the wisest and best minds the world has known, and so build their values into the pattern of one's life.

And so, in all seriousness, I salute you, librarians—my best friends who bring good books to me.

## ARKANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION REGIONAL MEETING AT LITTLE ROCK

Librarians, trustees and friends from fifteen counties attended the regional meeting at the Little Rock Public Library on Thursday, May 12. Mrs. Catherine Chew, librarian, Little Rock Public Library, and Miss Mary Sue Shepherd, librarian, Pulaski County Library, were hostesses. Miss Irene Mason, Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Library Commission, presided. Dr. M. R. Owens, Director of Instruction, Arkansas State Department of Education, Mrs. Dula Reid, librarian, Faulkner County Library, and Mrs. Merlin Moore, a board member of the Arkansas Library Commission, were the principal speakers.

Dr. Owens discussed problems common to school, municipal and county libraries and emphasized the value of continued cooperation between all library agencies. Having joined the staff of the Arkansas State Department of Education in 1925, Dr. Owens said that he has seen teaching change from the single textbook method to the informal procedure which requires an efficient functioning library as the hub of the educational program. He stressed the need of an abundant supply of good library material to assist the child in learning to read with rapidity and comprehension.

Discussing the new state library standards which became effective July 1, 1948, Dr. Owens outlined requirements for library quarters, librarian's training, number of hours the librarian should devote to professional library work, and the materials available in the library. An informal period for questions and group discussion followed his talk.

Mrs. Dula Reid, librarian, Faulkner County Library, discussed the record collection and the listening hour at the Faulkner County Library. Mrs. Reid's talk was followed by an informal period for questions and group discussion.

The group lunched together informally at the Woman's City Club. At the afternoon session a silent film about the Pulaski Bookmobile route was shown, with Miss Mary Sue Shepherd as narrator.

Mrs. Merlin Moore discussed the question, "Am I a good trustee?"

At the conclusion of the meeting, Miss Mason outlined briefly the benefits Arkansas would receive from federal aid for libraries and asked that librarians, trustees and friends of libraries request their congressmen to support Senate Bill 130 and HR 874.

## MUSIC COMES TO OUR LIBRARIES

When the Cosmos Club members of Forrest City planned the "Listening Hour", they were hoping that they would have a good crowd for the initial program, but when youngsters kept pouring into the children's room and overflowed into the main entrance, the sponsors were pleased beyond words. Among the records played were, "Three Little Pigs",

which was illustrated with cardboard puppets manipulated by Mrs. F. L. Proctor, librarian. She and Mrs. E. J. Butler planned the program. The Listening Hour is a memorial to Alice May Walker Adams, originator of these projects in Arkansas.

A new album, "Sonata in F Minor", by Beethoven, was featured one

morning at the Florra Stark Listening Hour at the Faulkner County Library. The album was presented by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Pennington in memory of Mrs. Horace Adams. Other records played for the children by Mrs. Robert W. Mosley, director, were, "Witches Dance" by MacDowell, "Etude" (Butterfly) by Chopin, "Pavane" (Sleeping Beauty) by Ravel and excerpts from "Pinocchio" by Walt Disney. The singing games for the day were "Looby Loo", "Farmer in the Dell" and "Ten Little Indians". "Little Orley Stories", arranged by Fred Waring and loaned by Jim and John Kane, concluded the program.

The Florra Stark Listening Hour started as a memorial to Mrs. Florra Stark. The Conway Shakespeare Club initiated it and continues to sponsor it. Records have been given to the library in memory of Mrs. Horace Adams, a member of the Shakespeare Club. The Listening Hour started with a borrowed record player, but the library now owns one. Records are circulated to schools and individual borrowers. Some of the records especially enjoyed by the

children are, "Theme from Symphony No. 5" by Beethoven, "Toy Symphony" by Haydn, "Semper Fidelis March" by Sousa, "Little Black Sambo's Jungle Band" narrated by Paul Wing, and "Theme from Unfinished Symphony" and "Ave Maria" by Schubert.

The Little Rock Public Library owns five hundred albums which they catalogue and circulate as they do books.

Even the bookmobiles have joined the "band wagon". The music clubs of Jonesboro have raised a fund toward the purchase of a record player for the Craighead county bookmobile, so that music instruction and appreciation can be carried to boys and girls all over the county.

Members of the Allegro and Repertoire Junior Music Clubs presented the Pine Bluff-Jefferson County bookmobile with a record player. Club members earned the money by selling National Federation of Music Club pencils. The record player was presented to Mrs. John Rutherford, Jr., county librarian.

## THE USE OF RECORDINGS IN STORY-TELLING PROGRAMS

"Story-telling demands much from those who practice its art: knowledge, imagination, the ability and willingness to work, the capacity for joy, the acceptance of sorrow—in short a kind of spiritual adulthood. Only from such richness can good story-telling come." Thus Eulalie Steinmetz in her article, "Story-telling Versus Recordings", in the Horn Book for May-June, 1948, defines the demands made on the librarian who is interested in providing a story hour program for the boys and girls in her library.

Before any use of recordings is made as a part of story-telling programs, read her plea against the substitution of records for the living personality in story hours. Just as in

the selection and evaluation of books, the responsibility for selecting and evaluating records is hard upon us with the great growth and widespread use of the recording of stories for children.

Recordings can never take the place of the story-teller with the interpretation and recreating of the story, the play of one personality upon another, the sharing of an experience on the part of the listeners with an adult—all of which are a part of good story-telling. The exigencies of time and energy, however, do lead us to the conclusion that wisely chosen story recordings can be used as a supplement in the story hour program.

## BOOKS ON CHILDREN'S RECORDS

**BARBOUR.** The Children's Record Book. Durrell, 1947. An authoritative guide to the best recorded music for children from six months to sixteen years.

**EISENBERG.** Guide to Children's Records. Crown, 1948. An up-to-date list of records for children—albums annotated and arranged by age groups.

## VACATION READING PROGRAMS

With the closing of public and county schools it is time to begin vacation reading programs. The Little Rock Public Library is urging all children in or above the fourth grade to "break a record". Upon joining the reading club each member will receive a cardboard "Victrola record". The recording grows each time a child reads and reports on a book. Spaces or "grooves" on each record are for ten books. All spaces must be filled before the recording is complete.

Jonesboro is doing a "Circus". The club favors are clowns whose suits

are decorated with colored dots—each dot representing a book read.

Texarkana's theme is "Alice in Bookland." Youngsters who enroll are registered on a master chart and receive a colored key for each book read. Completion of all the required books will entitle the entrant to a silver key. Bookmarks and buttons will also be awarded.

Fayetteville includes handicraft in its program; McGehee gives a certificate for ten books read; DeQueen stresses thoroughness. Children are urged not to rush through the course



but to try to derive as much benefit as possible from the books read. For pupils in the fifth and sixth grade, four of the twelve books must be non-fiction. Stuttgart children pay a five-cent registration fee and receive a record book for keeping up with books read.

For children too young to read there will be story hours. The Texarkana Negro Library is supplying

twelve different story-tellers. Newton County will do theirs with music. Mrs. Hazel Deal will start out with the old favorite, "The Little Engine That Thought It Could", which has a record to accompany it.

Story hours will also be held at Harrison, Forrest City, Little Rock, North Little Rock, Jonesboro, Berryville, Jasper, Green Forest and Yellville.

### ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE

Some time ago a patron of the Ozarks Regional Library was in search of information on the distinctive sex characteristics of parrots. Having only the one parrot, she wanted to find "it" a mate and create a happy home for the bird, but she did not know whether the bird she owned was male or female. After searching through books on birds, encyclopedias, etc., the only bit of information she was able to glean was the discouraging sentence: "Both sexes of the parrots are alike in appearance." When the question was referred to the Little Rock libraries and the curator of the Little Rock zoo, it met with the same baffling response. One bright friend of the

library offered this suggestion, "Parrots can talk. Why doesn't the lady ask her bird?" Another friend replied, "The parrot would probably answer in its famed manner, 'None of your d—— business!'" Librarians in Little Rock and Clarksville welcomed an article in the Arkansas Democrat, entitled "Eggs-Act Proof on Inexact Sex", which told of a parrot in England known as Harry who at the age of twenty-nine laid an egg and became "Harriet"; of Robert, who laid an egg at the age of one hundred and twenty-five being renamed Roberta; and of Joey, at age forty-five being renamed Josephine. Little hope remains for a happy home for this bird—just now at least.

## NEWS NOTES

**Arkadelphia Negro Library Committee**, with Mrs. A. D. Erby as chairman, has been organized as the first step toward providing increased library facilities for Negroes in Clark county. In a recent meeting called by Mrs. Erby at Peake High School, officers were elected and plans were formulated for the opening of a branch library for the Negro citizens of the county on July 1. This branch library, to be set up at Peake High School, is under supervision of the Clark County Library Board, of which Mrs. A. N. Thomas is chairman. A project has been launched for raising \$100 to help in establishing this much needed library unit, which has the whole-hearted support and cooperation of the Clark County Teachers Association. Plans call for the later organization of Negro committees in other communities.

**Musical Coterie of Fort Smith** has offered to give the Sebastian County Library an album of good records to circulate throughout the county. It is hoped that this may mark the beginning of a record lending service by the library. However, before accepting the records and making plans for securing more records and in time a record player for the library, it is necessary to know how many groups would be interested in using such a service. A library record collection would include classical, semi-classical and educational records and would be loaned to schools, church groups, clubs, etc. Public school music teachers have been favorably impressed with the idea of such a service that would fill

a real need for them. Any interested group or organization which has access to a record player should contact the library.

**"Listening Hour"**, a music appreciation period for children, was inaugurated on Saturday, May 7, by the Forrest City Cosmos Club. Similar programs in other cities are proving one of the most delightful and popular attractions for little folks. Civic leaders were convinced that a children's hour would be especially valuable in Fort Smith.

**The Blytheville Junior Service Auxiliary** is sponsoring a story hour for elementary school age children in Blytheville once a week. The younger group (children of first, second and third grades meets at the Public Library at 9:30 each Saturday morning, and the second group (fourth, fifth and sixth grades) meets at 10:30. This is one of the Junior Service Auxiliary's first projects, sponsored also by the Blytheville Public Library Association. Mrs. Hermon Carlton, a member of both organizations, is project chairman. Mrs. J. W. Adams is publicity chairman for the Auxiliary.

**Through the cooperation of Mr. A. B. Bonds**, Arkansas State Commissioner of Education, and Senator William F. Fulbright, Arkansas is to receive books from the duplicate files of the Library of Congress. Miss Irene Mason, Librarian and Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Library Commission, left June 12 for Washington, D. C., to select the books.

**Regional library meetings** have been held recently in Jonesboro, El Dorado, Harrison and Little Rock. Conference sessions have been devoted to talks by librarians and educators and work shop round-table discussions of local library problems and policies.

**Mississippi County's new library building** in Osceola was opened formally with a banquet and opening ceremonies conducted there on the evening of June 23.

Construction of the buff brick building was completed through efforts and sponsorship of the Osceola Progressive Club. This organization, as well as the Junior Progressive Club, will have club rooms on the second floor. An auditorium on this floor has a seating capacity of 400, a large stage and a modern kitchen.

Miss Eula McDougal, librarian, Mississippi County Library, and Mrs. C. W. Watson, president, Progressive Club, presided at the formal opening. Toastmaster was Rev. L. T. Lawrence, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Osceola, who is one of the trustees of Mississippi County Library. Mrs. Rece Saxon Price of Little Rock was guest artist. Other special guests included Miss Irene Mason, Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Library Commission, and Mississippi county representatives.

**The school library management class of Arkansas State Teachers College** made a field trip on April 21 to the libraries at Jacksonville and Little Rock high schools and Joe T.

Robinson School. The class also visited the children's department of the Little Rock Public Library and the Pulaski County Library. Miss Mary Sue Shepherd, librarian, Pulaski County Library, arranged the trip. The class was accompanied by Miss Constance Mitchell, Mrs. Louis Dunaway and Miss Gladys Sachse.

**An informal daily noonday music program** open to the public has been initiated by the Little Rock Public Library. These music hours, scheduled from 12:15 to 1:15 p. m., will present music in its lighter, more entertaining aspects. Listeners' requests will be honored in arranging future programs.

**The Helena Public Library** celebrated its 61st anniversary on May 3, at the Phillips County Museum. On display in the library was a picture of the Helena Company in the Spanish-American War. Several people were able to recognize relatives and friends.

**Fayetteville:** Mrs. C. B. Wiggins, librarian, called the public's attention to a collection of lead soldiers on display in the library's "Hobby Case". The collection belonged originally to 12-year-old Ashton Byroade, and had its beginning with some small toy soldiers given to him by his grandmother. Later they added a castle and some knights made in France and Germany sixty years ago. After this addition, Ashton's father, a major in the army, became interested in it and since then it has been a father-son project. The soldiers are molded to scale, about two inches

high. They are perfectly proportioned and each tiny soldier is wearing the clothing and paraphernalia of the period he represents. The collection represents many countries and periods of history.

**Malvern:** "Malvern's Library and Its Achievements" was the subject of the program of the Woman's Club at the April meeting. Mrs. F. R. Young, librarian, gave an interesting resume of the work accomplished in the thirteen years of library service. After the meeting the club was invited to the library to see the improvements and reconditioning of the building which are now underway.

**Library Courses:** Many colleges in Arkansas have added library science courses to their curricula in order to help teachers and librarians meet the requirements set up by the Arkansas State Department of Education by 1952-53.

Some of these colleges are: University of Arkansas; Arkansas A. M. and N. College, Pine Bluff; Arkansas State Teachers College at Conway; Henderson State Teachers College at Arkadelphia; Arkansas A. and M. College at Monticello; Arkansas State College at Jonesboro; Arkansas College at Batesville; College of the Ozarks at Clarksville, and Arkansas Polytechnic College at Russellville.